



## Guidelines for Micro Irrigation Rebate

Effective September 1, 2014

### Residential Customers:

Up to \$0.30 per square foot when upgrading existing overhead sprinklers to micro irrigation in grass replacement areas and in existing flower, shrub and vegetable garden beds (up to 3,000 square feet and \$900 per site.)

### Commercial Customers:

Up to \$0.30 per square foot when upgrading existing overhead sprinklers to micro irrigation in grass replacement areas and in existing flower, shrub and vegetable garden beds (up to 8,000 square feet and \$2,400 per site.)



All customers currently participating in the micro irrigation program but have not yet completed their project as of September 1, 2014 will be eligible to receive the enhanced rebate.

### What is the value of an efficient irrigation system?

The objective of the micro irrigation rebate is to encourage the conversion of conventional overhead sprinklers to micro or drip irrigation in grass replacement areas and in existing flower shrub and vegetable beds. A switch from sprinklers to a well designed high efficiency micro irrigation system can improve irrigation water use efficiency and reduce urban runoff into the storm water system while maintaining a high level of living landscape to benefit the environment. Conversion to micro irrigation can save up to 9 gallons of water annually for each square foot of irrigated area converted.

### City of San Diego Micro Irrigation Rebate Process

1. **Read and understand these Micro Irrigation Rebate Guidelines.** Please read these requirements prior to submitting your application to the City of San Diego.
2. **Complete the [RESIDENTIAL Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Application](#) or [COMMERCIAL Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Application](#)** when you are ready to begin your project. You will get a confirmation email or phone call with a project reference number from the City of San Diego Water Conservation Program confirming that your application was received. **This is not approval to begin your project.** If you do not get an email or phone reply from the City within 10 business days, please e-mail [waterconservationrebates@sanidiego.gov](mailto:waterconservationrebates@sanidiego.gov) or call 619-533-4126.
3. **Have a pre-site visit:** Once your application is deemed complete by the City, a scheduler will contact you to set up a pre-site visit (must occur before you begin your project). Qualification to participate in the rebate program will be determined at this site visit. If you qualify, you will be given a project start date. Project must be completed within 120 days of the pre-site visit.

4. **Have a post-site visit:** Once your project is complete, contact the surveyor you met at the pre-site visit to schedule a final visit and confirm the area qualified for the rebate.

## Program Parameters and Requirements

- For Residential Customers:
  - ✓ City of San Diego Public Utilities Department residential customers served by an individual water meter may receive a rebate.
  - ✓ Rebate amount - up to \$0.30 per square foot when upgrading existing overhead sprinklers to micro irrigation in grass replacement areas and in existing flower, shrub and vegetable garden beds (up to 3,000 square feet and \$900 per site. Minimum conversion is 400 square feet).
- For Commercial, Irrigation and Multi Family Customers:
  - ✓ City of San Diego Public Utilities Department customers served by a commercial, irrigation or multi-family water meter may receive a rebate. This includes HOAs.
  - ✓ Rebate amount - up to \$0.30 per square foot when upgrading existing overhead sprinklers to micro irrigation in existing flower, shrub and vegetable garden beds, up to 8,000 square feet and \$2,400 per site. Minimum conversion is 1,000 square feet.
- Existing flower, shrub and vegetable bed areas must have existing overhead sprinklers. No overhead sprinklers must exist in grass replacement areas.
- Multiple applications submitted over time for a site are acceptable, so long as total square footage micro irrigation that is rebated does not exceed maximum allowed square feet.
- Micro irrigation components must be of a “low application rate” which means that flow rates are measured in gallons per hour (gph) not gallons per minute (gpm).
- Project must be completed within 120 days of approved start date.
- Entire irrigation station(s) should be replaced with micro irrigation.
- Ensure the use of pressure regulator(s), backflow prevention device(s), and filter(s). Click [here](#) to see a photo of each type of device.
- Site changes made related to rebate program must comply with all applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions, and restrictions.
- Applicant’s water account must be in good standing, and micro irrigation at project site must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years. Photos of the project site may be taken by City staff to illustrate transitions from high water using landscapes to attractive water efficient landscapes.
- **Paid** receipts and/or **Paid** invoices must include transaction date(s) and payment method, and must be submitted to receive a rebate. Receipts must display the following categories separately:
  - ✓ Eligible labor costs (may also include delivery charges and design fees)
  - ✓ Materials cost (may not include costs for tools)
  - ✓ Taxes and tariffs.
- Estimated rebate shown on the On-line Application is based on information entered by the customer. Actual final rebate amount will be determined by supporting documents provided, cost of device or project, and available funding. Rebate will be the lower of the two: total eligible costs for the project or device or the stated maximum total dollar amount per customer rebate.
- Customer must agree to and sign the application agreement before rebate is issued. A pre-site visit by City of San Diego staff is required before work begins. A post-site visit is also required.
- Rebate check will be sent to the customer of record 6-8 weeks after post-site visit is successfully completed and the application and supporting documentation are deemed correct and complete by the City.
- Please consult with a tax advisor for questions regarding any potential tax implications of your rebate.

## What does not qualify for a rebate?

- Irrigation components rated in gallons per minute (gpm) from any manufacturer.
- Taxes or tariffs associated with purchase of rebate-related device/products or work performed.

If you have questions after reading these guidelines, please call 619-533-4126 or e-mail [waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov](mailto:waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov). Include your project reference number if you have one and your phone number.

Funding for a limited number of rebates is available through the City of San Diego the Public Utilities and Transportation and Storm Water Departments and/or a State of California Integrated Regional Watershed Management grant and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis until exhausted. This program is subject to change without prior notification.

## Other Important Information

Please consult with a tax advisor if you have questions regarding any potential tax implications of your rebate.

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Please visit [SoCalWaterSmart.com](http://SoCalWaterSmart.com) to determine if you are eligible for an additional rain barrel rebate.